

CONFIDENTIAL

EXCISE

0023

PRIORITY

P 041005Z AUG 87

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4210

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 9785

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI 4211

AMCONSUL LAHORE 3377

CONFIDENTIAL PESHAWAR 1419

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: ASEC, FGOV, PINR, PK

SUBJECT: MUTE REACTION IN PESHAWAR TO MECCA VIOLENCE

REF: STATE 238342

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: REACTION TO THE VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN IRANIAN PILGRIMS AND SAUDI AUTHORITIES IN MECCA JULY 31 HAS BEEN MUTE IN PESHAWAR AND THROUGHOUT THE FRONTIER. NEVERTHELESS, POLICE PREPARED FOR SHIA-SUNNI CLASHES AND PROVIDED HEAVY EXTRA PROTECTION TO THE CONSULATE AND OTHER USG FACILITIES. END SUMMARY.

3. THE JULY 31 VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN DEMONSTRATING IRANIAN PILGRIMS AND SAUDI AUTHORITIES IN MECCA HAS EVOKED LITTLE POPULAR REACTION SO FAR IN PESHAWAR AND OTHER FRONTIER CITIES.

IN THE HEART OF PESHAWAR WHERE POLITICAL MEETINGS ARE TRADITIONALLY HELD (CHOMK-E YADGAR), TOLD US THAT NOT A SINGLE MEETING WAS HELD BY THE PESHAWAR SHIA COMMUNITY, NOT EVEN BY SHIA YOUTH. HOWEVER, PESHAWAR SHIA WERE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM IRAN (VIA THE IRANIAN CONSULATE IN PESHAWAR WHICH, WE NOTE, HAS STRONG TIES TO THE LOCAL SHIA COMMUNITY).

4. EXCEPT AS A CONVERSATION STARTER, THE MECCA VIOLENCE HAS NOT INCITED PARHTUNS TO DEMONSTRATE OR EVEN TO HEATED DISCUSSIONS. EXPLAINING THIS APPARENT APATHY TOWARD SECTARIAN CONFLICT AND HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE.

AS AID, "FREQUENT SECTARIAN CLASHES AND REPEATED VIOLENT DEATHS HAVE BLUNTED OUR SENSITIVITIES TO THESE MATTERS."

5. INITIAL REACTION OF THE NWFP GOVERNMENT WAS TO PREPARE

ACTION
INFO

(U, 6, 7, 8)

CJCS(5) DJS:(1) J3(6) NIDS(1) J5(2)
SECDEF:(1) SECDEF(9) USDP(11) ASD:PA(1) USDP:ISA(1)
USDP:NEA(3) USDP:OSAA(4) NMIC(1) OSI-IPU(1)
OS-10(1) DB-SC2(1) NWS(1) JSI-SA(1) DAH-3(2)
DAH-6(1) DIO-GA(1) DIO(1) VP FRD(1) DE-4(1) DB-2C(1)
DB-2C2(1) DB-BC(3) DX-5(1) DX-SA2(1) DX-SB(1)
DX-6(1) DX-6B(1) DX-6C(1) DX-SC1(1) DIA(1) DX-SC2(1)
DB-602(1) VP FRD-1B(1)

+OCSA WASHINGTON DC

+CNO WASHINGTON DC

+CSAF WASHINGTON DC

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+DIRNAVINSERV WASHINGTON DC

+CMC CC WASHINGTON DC

+COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//

+USCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL

+USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

+MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//

+HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC

+CDRUSAITAC ARLINGTON VA STATION VA

+CDRATHPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//AFVS-PCE-SSD//

+USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

+CDR513THMIGP FT MONMOUTH NJ//IAM-IC-B//

+COMUSARCENT FT MCPHERSON GA//AFRO-DSO//

+CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

+CDR8THPSYOPBN FT BRAGG NC

+SAFE

FOR ANTICIPATED SHIA-SUNNI CLASHES IN PESHAWAR AND OTHER CITIES. PESHAWAR POLICE REMAINED BUSY LATE INTO THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 1-2 LOOKING FOR INDICATIONS OF TROUBLE. AFTER HEARING NEWS OF IRANIAN ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE US, POLICE PROVIDED HEAVY EXTRA PROTECTION TO THE CONSULATE (60 POLICE PARKED IN MINIBUSES ACROSS FROM THE CONSULATE) AND TO OTHER USG FACILITIES (40 POLICE PARKED WITHIN 100 YARDS OF THE AMERICAN CENTER AND AID OFFICES).

6. MOST OF THE PESHAWAR (SUNNI) MAULANAS WHO NORMALLY EXCITE SECTARIAN TENSIONS, ACCORDING TO ARE BUSY "FIGHTING ZIA UL HAQ." TO DEFEY THE GOV, THEY PROPOSED CELEBRATING EID UL-AZHA A DAY EARLIER THAN THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED DATE. A FEW SUNNI CLERGY HAVE MADE INFLAMMATORY ANTI-IRANIAN REMARKS (REPORTED SEPTEL).

7. COMMENT: THE NEWS IS THE REMARKABLY QUIET REACTION IN PESHAWAR SO FAR TO THE MECCA INCIDENT. PEOPLE IN THE FRONTIER ARE MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH SECTARIAN CLASHES CLOSER TO HOME (KURRAM TRIBAL AGENCY, IN PARTICULAR) AND THE UPCOMING EID HOLIDAY. WE ARE IMPRESSED BY THE SPEEDY PROVISION OF EXTRA POLICE PROTECTION TO USG FACILITIES AND CONTINUING POLICE COOPERATION.

HANSON BT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

OCT 11 1990

REVIEWED by Bentley DATE 10/11/90

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